Historic Preservation

QUARTERLY OF THE NATIONAL TRUST
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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PRESERVATION SHORT COURSES

Cambridge, Mass. Radcliffe College and the Department of History of Harvard University will offer an 8-week summer institute on Archival and Historical Procedures starting June 23. The course is open to men and women college graduates or those actively engaged in archival operations. It is designed to meet a growing demand for historically trained archivists and administrators. Earle W. Newton, former director of the Vermont Historical Society and Old Sturbridge Village, at present editor of *American Heritage*, will direct the program and the faculty will be drawn from the staffs of outstanding archival institutions, museums, and historical societies in the east and midwest.

Of interest to National Trust members will be the special group of courses on problems of architectural preservation as materials of history and a means for its interpretation. The newer "outdoor museum" will be studied as a significant development in this field by lecture, research and actual field study within a fifty mile radius of Cambridge.

Information: Mr. Earle W. Newton, Archival Procedures Institute, Radcliffe College, Cambridge 38, Mass.

Cooperstown, N. Y. From July 6 to 13 the New York State Historical Association will offer its seventh annual seminar on American Culture at Cooperstown, N. Y. The program is designed for local historians, collectors, writers, teachers, museum workers, librarians, folk lorists and enthusiasts in early Americana. It is devised with intensive morning and afternoon sessions with a selection of one course from each group. The courses include: The Country Home, 1650 to 1850; Researching Local History; Using Local History; American Frugal Housewife; Techniques in Historic Exploration; American Myths; The Iroquois People; and Early American Decoration.

Information: Leaflets have been mailed to all National Trust members. For additional data write Seminars on American Culture, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, N. Y.

Storr, Conn. During the University of Connecticut 1954 summer session, a special historical travel course will be offered, of interest to graduate and undergraduate students, teachers and others who wish to study at first-hand the places in the Northeast identified with great events in American history. Field trips will be preceded by class sessions on the historical background of the area to be visited. Field trips are scheduled for a number of nearby points such as Mystic Seaport, Conn. and Newport, R. I. Old Sturbridge Village, Mass. will offer a two-day institute, and a five-day trip planned through the heart of the area of colonial Massachusetts includes Plymouth, Boston, Salem, Lexington and Concord. The final long tour will include areas in western Massachusetts, Vermont, and the regions around Lake Champlain, Lake George, and the Hudson River.

Information: Dr. Albert E. Van Duesen, Assistant Professor of History, University of Connecticut, Storr, Conn., who will direct the program.

Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England. The Third Annual English National Trust Summer School on "The Country Houses of England; their Architectural and Social Heritage," will be offered July 9-18 and 19-30 in association with the Shropshire Adult College, Attingham Park. The aim of the school is to offer visitors from America an opportunity to study the architectural and historic heritage of the country houses and their place in English history.

Information: American sponsors for the program, all members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States, are Mrs. Lydia Bond Powel, Keeper of the American Wing, Metropolitan Museum of Art, N. Y.; Daniel M. C. Hopping, Society of Architectural Historians; Hardinge Scholle, Consultant of the National Trust, Washington, D. C.; Miss Barbara Wriston, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Bertram K. Little, Director of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities; and Charles C. Wall, resident superintendent of *Mount Vernon*. George Trevelyan, Warden, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

ANNUAL MEETING

Invitations and reservation blanks for the annual meeting, to be held in Chicago on October 29th and 30th, will be sent to the membership early in September.

Belle Meade, Nashville, Tennessee — *Don Cravens*
Restoration of this ante-bellum mansion is a current project of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, a National Trust member organization.

Whitehorse Tavern, Newport, R. I.
Preservation Society of Newport County

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Newport, R. I. Whitehorse Tavern on the corner of Farewell and Marlborough Streets, dating from 1673, has been acquired by the Preservation Society of Newport County, a Trust member. The tavern was in the possession of the Nichols family from 1700 to 1901 and played a part as the center of town life, the colonial tavern, and as the home of a pirate, a governor, a patriot, occupying British officers, innkeepers, silversmiths and cabinetmakers. The Society plans to restore it and re-open it as a tavern as part of their comprehensive restoration program.

Sacramento, Calif. The State Legislature in the past session acted favorably upon two pending preservation measures. One was a bill to designate the "Old San Diego Area as the *Birthplace of California*," authorizing the California Park Commission to make a study of the area and cooperate with the city of San Diego in formulating plans for its preservation. The second resolution proposed the acquisition of the Hearst Castle at San Simeon with 300 acres of surrounding grounds, its works of art and furnishings. This was offered to the state by the estate of the late William Randolph Hearst. It would be operated under the jurisdiction of the California State Park Commission.

Hyattsville, Md. Adelphi Mill (1791), an old stone and timber structure on the northwest branch of the Anacostia River, will be restored on the exterior by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Members of the Adelphi Citizens Association and others concerned were assured by the Commission that in adapting the interior to community use for square dancing, indoor games and other center uses, no major changes will be made that will not permit its complete restoration as an operating mill in the future.

Muskogee, Okla. The Da-Co-Tah Indian Club has initiated a campaign to raise funds to restore the Old Indian Agency on top of Honor Heights Hill.

Princeton, N. J. Former Governor Walter E. Edge has presented to the state of New Jersey, historic *Morven* (1801), as an executive mansion for its governors. The Georgian brick and stucco mansion has twenty rooms, many with notable hand-carved woodwork. It has 5½ acres of gardens, lawns, tennis courts and a swimming pool, and is situated eleven miles from Trenton. Included in the gift would be an early four-poster bed used by Cornwallis when *Morven* was requisitioned by British forces in the Revolution. Renovation will be completed by fall when New Jersey's governor will occupy it as an official state residence for the first time.

Moore County, N. C. The House in the Horseshoe (1760) the home of Lt. Col. Philip Alston, and later of Gov. Benjamin Williams, has been presented to the state of North Carolina by Glenn Hancock of Bonlee. It will be a restoration project of the Moore County Historical Association, the Alfred Moore Chapter of the D.A.R. and the North Carolina Society for the Preservation of Antiquities (a Trust member).

New York, N. Y. Greenwich Village, under the auspices of the Greenwich Village Association and its Chamber of Commerce, is launching a program for the permanent preservation of important buildings of historic or architectural interest surviving in the Village. Impetus to the movement has come from loss of the Rhinelander Buildings on Washington Square, the Old Brevoort Hotel, the Mark Twain house and other notable buildings within the past few years. The National Trust is serving in an advisory capacity to the group, and Frederick L. Rath, Jr., Director, addressed their opening meeting on the subject on April 20.

Adelphi Mill, Hyattsville, Md.
Maryland Capital Park & Planning Commission

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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AUTO-INTOXICATION

From the "Trade Winds" section of a recent issue of the *Saturday Review of Literature* comes an entertaining, but unhappily too true commentary, on our American way, ". . . a rather surprising example of British confusion of literary tradition can be seen in Lyme Regis, where someone has torn down Jane Austen's house and replaced it with a tearoom named *Alice-in-Wonderland*. We would have done better in this country, I am sure: built a hotel named *Persuasinn* and put *a Mansfield Park-ing Lot* around back."

To which, the National Trust could add from bitter experience, we would indeed have done better, tearing down one or more historic and architectural treasures if need be to expand the parking lot. The over-concentration of population in big cities and their suburbs results in great traffic problems—most of them created by the motor car. Our small cities and villages are not spared, for motorist and merchant unite in the clamor for convenient parking space. Yielding to this pressure and to the tempting income such enterprises bring, they sacrifice historic buildings and beautiful parks in a mad scramble for immediate solutions and quick profits.

This unplanned destruction is perhaps the greatest single force in the diminution of our national cultural heritage. The day is not too far distant, though, when some of the cities and towns most enterprising in the matter of proving parking space regardless of this cost, will awake to the fact that they have lost a major economic asset.

The thoughtful and patriotic tourist who devotes his leisure travel time to purposeful travel with his family, seeking those sites where the past is present, will find little to attract him in a city whose chief concern has been to provide adequate parking. Travel experts and others who measure the distribution of the billions of tourist dollars spent annually in this country, report a steady and mounting increase of tourist interest in historic travel. In the south alone, travel is a $4½ billion dollar industry. To get their share of the tourist dollar our cities and towns must conserve their historical and architectural attractions.

In the nation's capital, the ubiquitous parking lot and street parking facilities are diminishing the effect of one of the world's beautifully designed cities. For more downtown parking spaces in the shopping area, it is proposed to raze the magnificent Patent Office designed in 1836 by Robert Mills. The marble building is a handsome Greek revival edifice, a classic example of the type, which although much enlarged, still retains the essence of Mills' magnificent design. It contains an estimated 200,000 square feet, is owned and occupied by the government and is in good condition. Cost of demolition would be extremely high.

Yet if bills introduced in Congress are passed they would authorize disposal of the Patent Office, "to make available a site . . . for the erection by private enterprise of a building to be used for parking of motor vehicles . . . and to assure the use of the property for such purposes for a reasonable period of time." These bills have encountered strong and articulate opposition from the American Institute of Architects, the Commission of Fine Arts, and other groups concerned with this trend in the nation and the nation's capital.

Elsewhere in the city thousands of government workers labor in unsightly wooden shacks which are uncomfortable in the extreme, inefficient and dangerous—the well-known "temporaries" erected in World War I and II on the Mall and in other areas where they make unsightly the environs of our great public buildings and monuments. Here again, one is impelled to contrast the American with the British way. In England, despite the drastic pressures of the postwar economy every vestige of World War II temporaries has already been removed in accordance with a promise made before their erection to the English National Trust.

The solution to the problem of meeting present-day and future needs for parking facilities is not to be found in the random and haphazard creation of lots and garages wherever opportunity offers a prospective income-producing site. It must be sought in long-range planning by civic authorities in consultation with experts in city planning, traffic control and zoning. Otherwise the American traveler of the future will speed over throughways that are graveyards of the tangible reminders of our past, to park his car in a lot in some historic city on the site of its most notable landmark.

—H.D.B.

Mount Holly Prison, Burlington Co., N. J. *Mt. Holly Herald*

IN DANGER

Mount Holly, N. J. Burlington County's famous prison, built 1818-1821 by the architect Robert Mills, one of Latrobe's most accomplished pupils, may be torn down to make way for a new four-story million-and-a-half dollar county office building and jail. A promptly organized Association for the Preservation of Historic Burlington County has taken vigorous action and is receiving encouraging support from the community at large and from other preservation organizations including the National Trust.

Mackinac Island, Mich. The American Fur Company's Clerk's Quarters in Mackinac Island are in danger of being torn down by order of civic authorities. The retail store of the fur trading company was built before 1812, and in 1818 became its principal retail store. In 1822, during its occupancy, the gunshot accident occurred to Alexis St. Martin which led to the famous experiments of Dr. William Beaumont. St. Martin's wound left an orfice into his stomach through which Dr. Beaumont made epoch-making studies of the process of human digestion. The Michigan State Medical Society has restored the main house as a monument to Dr. Beaumont. The Clerk's Quarters were an integral part of the company post and their preservation is being urged by the American Institute of Architects, the Detroit Preservation Committee and the National Trust, among other organizations.

Salem, Mass. Old "Dartmoor Prison", (1847) a great castellated granite structure which has served as the Boston and Maine Railroad Station in the heart of the city since 1947, is again the center of violent controversy. As part of a public works program advocated by federal, state and civic authorities to eliminate four dangerous grade crossings and solve other downtown traffic problems, its razing has been proposed. Urging its preservation, at least in part, as a unique and irreplaceable architectural monument, and part of the city's heritage is the newly-organized New England Landmarks Association. Joining with the advocates of the public works plan are those who hold the vast Gothic structure is nothing but a "civic gargoyle".

WOODLAWN PLANTATION

Joseph Rejthar of Washington, D. C. won first prize in the Corcoran Gallery of Art poster design competition held for *Woodlawn Plantation*. Second prize was awarded Robert A. Wacker and Mrs. Jesslyn W. Downer received honorable mention. Thirty entries were received in the competition, which was judged by David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, Hermann W. Williams, Jr., Director of the Corcoran Gallery; Edward Walton, commercial artists; and Mitchell Jamieson, painter. Mrs. Arthur Woods, Trustee of the National Trust and chairman of its Woodlawn Committee, donated the prizes. The competition was held under the direction of Richard Leahy, principal of the Corcoran School of Art.

Plans are being formulated by the Restoration Committee of the Garden Club of Virginia for the restoration of *Woodlawn's* gardens with part of the proceeds from the Historic Garden Week tours held April 21-May 4.

A special fashion show is being scheduled for late May for the benefit of *Woodlawn Plantation*. Gowns by Philip Robertson whose designs were derived from the collection of gowns of the First Ladies of the White House in the Smithsonian Institution, will be modeled. Reproductions of some of the dresses in that collection will be shown.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Paul Mellon of Washington, Mrs. Ailsa Mellon Bruce of New York, and Judge Edwin C. Lewis of Philadelphia were recipients of the Department of the Interior's Conservation award for their interest and assistance in the preservation and expansion of the resources of the National Park system. The awards to Mrs. Bruce and Mr. Mellon were made in recognition of their joint donation through the Old Dominion and Avalon Foundations for land acquisition for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreation Area in North Carolina. Recognition was also given Mrs. Bruce for her gift to the nation of Hampton National Historic Site near Towson, Md. The award to Judge Lewis was in recognition of his work to assure the proper preservation and use of historic buildings within the Independence National Historical Park Area in Philadelphia.

At a joint meeting of the Ulster County Historical Society and the Ulster County Garden Club, Mrs. Hermann G. Place of the Committee on Historic Preservation gave an illustrated lecture on the program of the National Trust. A resolution was adopted at the meeting requesting the county Board of Supervisors to make needed repairs to save Perrine's bridge, one of the picturesque old covered bridges in the area.

Fort Hunter Museum, Harrisburg, is cooperating with the Junior Historians of Pennsylvania in an exhibit featuring "One Hundred Years of Education," which will be shown in Harrisburg. Weaving, spinning and candle dipping will also be demonstrated, prior to a showing on television in June during Craft Week.

Williamsburg has announced a plan for a folk art museum to be opened late in 1955 to be known as the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller museum. The museum will display Mrs. Rockefeller's collection of 19th century folk art in a series of rooms suggestive of domestic interiors in which the objects were originally used. The museum will be located outside the restored area of the colonial capital of Virginia, but will be administered by Colonial Williamsburg, with funds presented to it by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Mitchell A. Wilder, director of presentation, will be director, and Mrs. Nina Fletcher Little has been appointed consultant.

On Saturday, May 22, the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society of Connecticut will hold its annual open house day in Simsbury. As an extra feature of the occasion they have called upon members to donate antiques for an auction sale, to be conducted by a noted antiques auctioneer. After the auction each donor will be given a statement showing the amount his donation brought, which is fully tax-deductible. Five historic homes will be open for the occasion, and those purchasing tickets are asked to bring their lunches and will be served dessert and coffee at the auction.

The State Department of Archives and History in March opened its Hall of History Railroad in Raleigh. It is a collection of models telling the history of railroading in North Carolina. The earliest is the *Raleigh*, one of the original engines on the Raleigh and Gunston Railroad completed in 1840. The models are scaled not only in size, but in speed, from the *Raleigh* which runs on its miniature track at 15 miles an hour to a deisel that runs at 60.

Georgia Historical Commission is continuing its program of marking places of historical interest throughout the state. Patriotic and civic organizations participate in the program by making special occasions of the unveiling ceremonies. The Brunswick Chapter of the D.A.R. unveiled four markers in that area, and at each marker a descendant of a family connected with the memorialized location was represented. A motorcade traveled to each marker for the ceremonies.

Dr. Carl E. Guthe, former director of the New York State Museum and Science Service, is now Research Associate of the American Association of Museums. He is engaged in a study of personnel and management practices in museums throughout the country. In the course of his travels he also plans to visit various national parks and monuments, serving as Collaborator at Large of the National Park Service.

Staten Island Historical Society and the Park Department of New York City have been collaborating since last summer on a program for the restoration of Richmondtown on Staten Island, under a grant of $50,000 from the New York Foundation. Governor Dewey last month signed a bill permitting the Park Department to provide further aid to the society, including money, in their preservation of one of the first settlements in the new world.

NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Beacon Hill Association (Boston); The Historic Preservation Society of Mobile (Ala.); The Buchanan Foundation (Pa.); Garden Club of Wilmington (Del.); Illinois State Historical Society; and Tate House Committee (Me.). Katzenbach and Warren of New York, corporate member.

ACTIVE PRESERVATION

Chisolm, Minn. Through the cooperative efforts of the Chisolm Chamber of Commerce and the Minnesota Historical Society, the only museum in the United States on iron mining will open May 15. It will be an outdoor museum depicting the history of the industry from the days of the Indian to the present era of taconite. There will be an actual underground mine, and a logging town complete with false fronts of stores and saloons, an indoor museum, and an amphitheatre for a summer program of music and folk dancing.

Monterey, Calif. Casa Guttierrez (1831), a typical California adobe dwelling, has been accepted by The State Park Commission as a gift from Monterey Foundation, a Trust member organization. The state has agreed to buy a vacant lot at the rear of the property to preserve the historic grounds and atmosphere.

Fairmount, W. Va. Fort Necessity near Uniontown, a reconstructed fort of the French and Indian Wars, is being reconstructed in the light of newly-discovered documents and old maps of 1754, which indicated that the original palisaded fort was circular. This data was confirmed by archaeological excavations made in 1953 by the National Park Service, and the present rectangular structure will be superseded. It is intended to complete the work by July 3-4, the bi-centennial of the date when Colonel George Washington fought his first major engagement at the site, and although defeated, was permitted by the French to "retire to his own country" with the honors of war.

New Haven, Conn. Yale University's oldest building, Connecticut Hall (1747), was reconstructed and rededicated in February in an Alumni Day ceremony.

Vicksburg, Miss. Unofficial hostess to the thousands of tourists visiting other historic attractions in Vicksburg, is the steamer *Sprague*, "Big Mama" of the Mississippi, and the largest sternwheel towboat in the world, now tied up at the city waterfront in the Yazoo Canal. After forty years of continued operations in the Ohio and Mississippi, *The Sprague* was scheduled to be sold for junk. A group of Vicksburg yachtsmen sent a delegation to Baton Rouge where the "Big Mama" was tied up, asking the Standard Oil Company to present it to the city. The boat was presented intact, except for the whistle, which in accordance with old river custom was given to Captain Hampton, the last captain, when he relinquished his command. It now houses one of the largest and most valuable collections of old steamboat prints extant, and is used also for conventions, fish fries, dances, and as a show-boat.

Mercersburg, Pa. The log cabin in which the fifteenth president, James Buchanan was born in 1791, has been acquired by Mercersburg Academy, moved to a site on their campus and restored. This marks the third time the cabin has been moved, having been moved to Mercersburg in 1850 from Stony Batter, in 1925 from there to Chambersburg, and last year to the campus. The academy authorities are seeking authentic furnishings and memorabilia to develop the cabin as a Buchanan museum for the public.

Hermann, Mo. Maifest, the traditional holiday of this old German community will be celebrated in this Missouri Town May 22-23, with pageants, house tours, parades, special store window displays, German folk dancing and music and the serving of special traditional German dishes. The city of 2500 last year was host to 40,000, and plan to take care of as many this year. Proceeds of the event are devoted to the preservation program of Historic Hermann, a non-profit organization, which is seeking to preserve the architectural and historical tradition of the town.

San Francisco, Calif. Members of the California Historical Society (a Trust member) were entertained April 20 in the newly-restored Octagon House by the National Society of Colonial Dames, under whose auspices this historic building was preserved. The house is to be opened to the public later this year.

MUSEUM TAX EXEMPTION

On March 31, President Eisenhower signed the Excise Tax Reduction Act of 1954 (H.R. 8224), which exempts from admission taxes, effective the next day, all museum admission charges. This exemption was brought about through the efforts of the American Association of Museums, a Trust member. As amended, the act provides:

> 2. *Historic sites, museums, and planetariums*—Any admission to an historic site, house, or shrine, to a museum of history, art, or science, to a planetarium, or any exhibition in connection with any of the foregoing operated—
>
> *A*—by any State or political sub-division thereof or by the United States or any agency or instrumentality thereof—if the proceeds therefrom inure exclusively to the benefit of the State, political subdivision, United States, or instrumentality, or
>
> *B*—by any society or organization not organized for profit—if no part of the earnings thereof inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individuals.

Mark Twain House before Razing ....*New York Times*

DESTRUCTION

New York, N. Y. Mark Twain's old house on Fifth Avenue, designed in 1840 by James Renwick, Jr., architect of St. Patrick's cathedral, has been razed despite valiant efforts made by the Greenwich Village Chamber of Commerce to raise funds to save it, and move it from the site, on which a 14-story apartment building is to be erected. The Chamber planned to use the house as a Village museum.

Fredericksburg, Va. Members of the League of Women Voters of Fredericksburg, which last year inaugurated a project for preserving the city's historic atmosphere, were warned by one of the project leaders that a check of local moving and wrecking concerns shows that much colonial building material was being dispersed to other Virginia cities, notably to Williamsburg. Demand for old building materials has also come from places in North Carolina, Connecticut and Massachusetts. On the basis of information to be collected, the League, in collaboration with other civic groups, plans to offer a program for keeping valuable materials in Fredericksburg.

St. Louis, Mo. St. Luke's Catholic Church razed the Frederick E. Neisen house on the property acquired by them north of the church. The church may build an addition to its parish grade school in the future on the site, which in the meantime is used as a parking lot for parishioners.

Stockton, Calif. Budd mansion, the focal point of Stockton social life for more than a century, is being razed to make way for a parking lot. The 24-room Victorian villa originally stood on the bank of Miner Slough on the outskirts of the city, and is now completely surrounded by downtown business buildings. It is occupied by a grand-daughter of the pioneer attorney, Joseph H. Budd, who purchased it from the builder.

Chicago, Ill. Old St. Peter's Church, one of the few to survive the great Chicago fire will be torn down to provide space for a parking lot. The Rev. Terrence Thomas, OFM, and members of the Chicago Historical Society held a meeting to decide on items to be salvaged from the church. The church's massive bells will be installed in the new St. Raymond's cathedral under construction in Joliet.

Silver Spring, Md. Blair-Lee House, the most historic landmark in Silver Spring, will be razed this spring. The house was built as a summer home in 1842 by Francis Preston Blair, early Washington journalist, and is near the original spring for which the city is named. A postoffice annex will be erected on the site.

Two Rivers, Wis. A public parking lot is being planned for the site of the first City Hall.

Joplin, Mo. Another of the pioneer homes in the once exclusive residential area of Wall Avenue, the Koehler house, was wrecked early this year. The site is being used as a parking lot.

Mark Twain *Brown Bros., N. Y.*